

Scary Bible Stories to Tell in the Dark



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The Shriveled Hand
(1 Kings 13)

Dry Bones
(Ezekiel 37)

The Sorcerer of Endor
(1 Samuel 28)

Ghost Writer
(Daniel 5)

Demon Possessed
(Mark 5)



By: Courtney Kirk

Illustrations by:
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The Shriveled Hand

1 Kings 13

King Solomon was the wisest man to ever live, but even he made mistakes that could not be ignored. Because he turned to foreign gods, the real God punished him. When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam was supposed to be the new king of all 12 tribes of Israel, but instead God only allowed him to reign over two tribes, Judah and Benjamin.

One of Solomon's servants became king of the other 10 tribes of Israel. A *servant* became king! So Rehoboam was king of the south while Jeroboam was king of the north. Every year, all of the Israelites were supposed to go back to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices and worship God. That's where King Rehoboam reigned though. This made King Jeroboam very nervous. He was afraid that his people would decide to kill him and want Rehoboam as their king. What could he do?

King Jeroboam had an idea, a *very* bad and sinful idea. He built two golden calves. He placed one in the city of Dan and the other in Bethel. Then he told the people, "Here is your God! See how good I am to you. You do not have to travel far. You can worship God right here." God was angry with King Jeroboam for making up his own rules instead of obeying.

One day God sent a man to Bethel where King Jeroboam lived. God gave him a message to deliver to the king. Jeroboam was standing by an altar to burn incense when the man of God spoke. He told him, "As a sign of things to come the altar will be torn in two and the ashes will pour out of it." Then it happened just like the man of God said. The altar broke in two and ashes came pouring out of it.

King Jeroboam did not like this one bit! So he raised his arm and commanded his soldiers, "Seize him!" But right then something terribly frightening happened. King Jeroboam's hand dried up right before their eyes. He could not even pull it back to himself. It was just an old, dry, shriveled hand that would not move.

"Please, please pray to God that he restore my hand," Jeroboam cried. The man of God prayed and just like that, his hand was back to normal. But even after this, King Jeroboam did not change his evil ways.



Skeleton Hand by: goldenshrimp
(Vitali Primski)

Dry Bones

Ezekiel 37

God's people were taken captive by Babylon. After Jerusalem was destroyed, Ezekiel began talking about the hope that God would restore their land one day. Then it happened, a very scary eerie event. God showed Ezekiel how he could bring a bunch of old, dry bones to life in the same way God could bring his people back to life if they would just turn to Him.

God grabbed Ezekiel and took him setting him down in the middle of a valley covered with dry bones. They were everywhere he looked. He stepped over tons of old, dry bones bleached by years of lying in the sun. God spoke, "Can these bones come to life?"

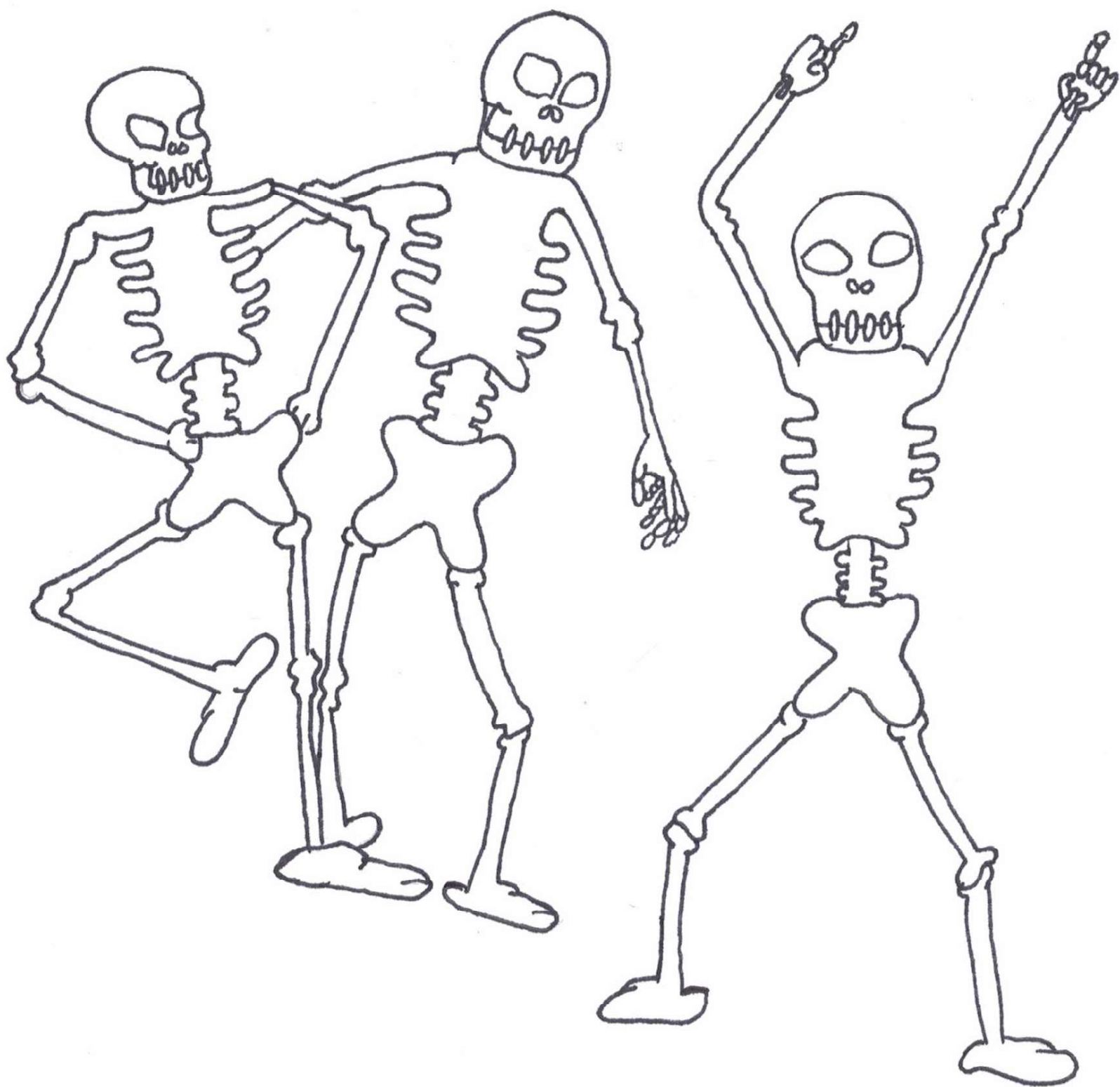
Ezekiel answered, "God, only you know that." Then God instructed Ezekiel to speak to the bones, to say, "Dry bones, listen to the Message of God!"

The bones listened as God spoke to them, "Watch this, you will come to life. Then you will realize that I am God!"

Then there was sound, a rattling. The bones shook and began moving. They were coming together, bone to bone forming complete skeletons right before Ezekiel's very eyes. He kept watching as sinews formed, then muscles covered the bones, then skin stretched over them. There were piles of bones everywhere and now there were bodies. But they were not alive.

God told Ezekiel, "Speak to the wind." So he did. And the wind began blowing in from every direction. It moved through the bodies making an eerie sound as it blew air into them giving them breath, bringing them to life. The bodies rose up and formed a very large army.

God told Ezekiel, "These bones are like the whole family of Israel. The people believe their bones have dried up and their hope is gone." God told Ezekiel to tell the people of Israel he would restore them and give them their home again.



The Sorcerer of Endor

1 Samuel 28

Samuel was a prophet from God. After he died, he was buried.

The Philistines prepared for war against King Saul. Saul gathered his armies together but was very afraid. His heart pounded with fear. He prayed to God, but God did not answer him. You see, Saul had turned his back on God. Finally, Saul had an idea.

King Saul learned of a sorcerer in the town of Endor. God did allow witchcraft, but Saul did not know where else to turn. Late one night, Saul put on a disguise so no one would recognize him. Saul went to the sorcerer and said, "I want you to bring up a ghost who can tell me the future. You *must* call for the ghost of the person I name."

But the sorcerer said, "I can't! It is against the law. King Saul will have me killed." She did not know this *was* the king.

Saul made a promise using God's name, promising her she would not be punished. So she asked, "Who do you want me to bring back from the dead?"

"Bring up Samuel," he said. And then it happened. The sorcerer saw Samuel and screamed! She said to Saul, "You tricked me! *You* are Saul!"

"Don't be afraid," he said. "Just tell me, what do you see?"

"I see a spirit coming out of the ground. He looks like an old man wearing a special robe."

Saul knew it was Samuel and bowed down touching his face to the ground. "*Why* did you bother me? *Why* did you bring me up from the dead?" Samuel asked.

"I'm in trouble and God has left me. He won't answer me anymore. I need you to tell me what to do," Saul begged.

Samuel said, "God left you and is now your enemy so why ask me for advice? God is doing what he said he would do. He is tearing the kingdom out of your hands and giving it to David because you would not obey him. The Philistines will defeat you. Tomorrow you and your sons *will be here with me.*"



Ghost Writer

Daniel 5

King Belshazzar gave a big party for 1000 of his officials. They were all drinking wine when King Belshazzar ordered his servants to bring the gold and silver cups. These were the cups taken from the temple of God in Jerusalem. Together all the people drank from them and gave praises to their gods which were just idols.

They were having a good time when all of a sudden from the dark room a person's hand appeared and began writing on the wall. The ghostly fingers scratched words in the plaster of the castle wall near the lampstand. The king was watching as the hand wrote:

MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPARSIN

King Belshazzar was so afraid. His face became white from fear and his knees shook and knocked together. His legs were so weak he could not even stand.

The king called for his magicians but no one could tell him what the words from the ghostly hand meant. He called for his wise men but even they did not know. The king grew even more afraid and worried. His mother went to him and told him of a man who had the spirit of the holy gods in him. She told him that his grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar, had put this man in charge of all the wise men. His name was Daniel. If anyone could tell him what the words meant, it was Daniel.

So the king called for Daniel. He said, "Please, tell me what these words mean."

Daniel said, "God made your grandfather Nebuchadnezzar a great and powerful king. But he became proud and stubborn so it was taken away from him. His royal throne was taken from him and he went crazy acting like an animal. He lived with the wild donkeys and ate grass like an ox. All of this happened until he learned his lesson. He learned that the God Most High rules over human kingdoms. But you, King Belshazzar, you already knew this and still have not made yourself humble. Instead you turned against the God of heaven ordering the drinking cups from His Temple be brought to you. Then you all drank from them and praised your idols. You did not honor God. So because of that, *God* wrote on the wall."

Mene: God has counted the days until your kingdom will end.

Tekel: You have been weighed on the scales and found not good enough.

Uparsin: Your kingdom is being taken from you and will be divided.

That very same night, King Belshazzar was killed.

Mene
Mene
Tekel



Demon Possessed

Mark 5

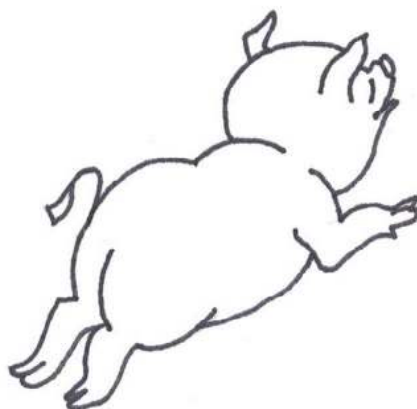
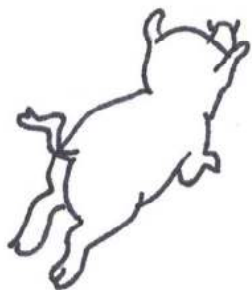
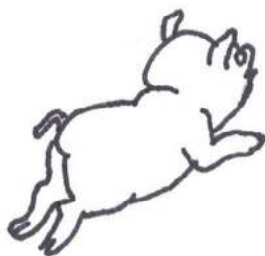
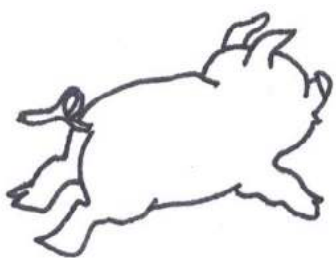
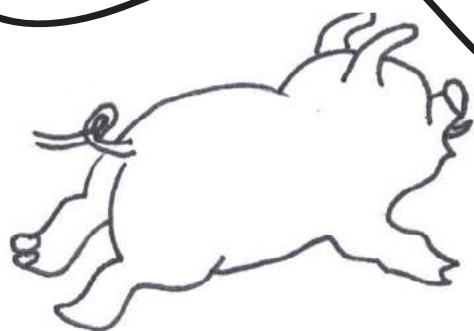
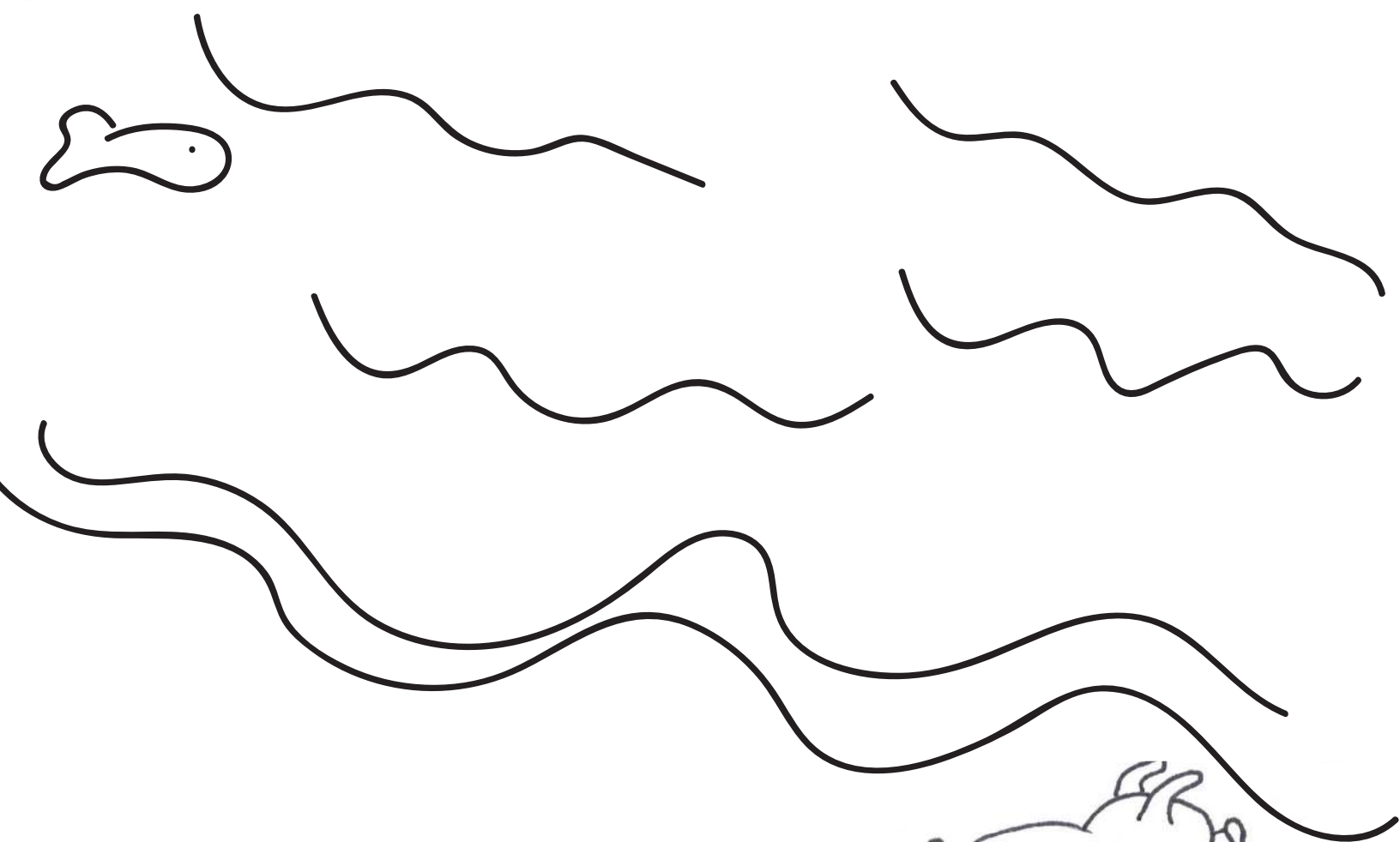
Jesus and his followers went across the lake to a place where people were living. When Jesus got off the boat, a man came to him from the caves where they buried the dead. This is where the man lived. He had an evil spirit, a demon, living inside him.

No one could keep him tied up, not even with chains. Many times people put chains on his hands and feet but he broke free every time. No one was strong enough to control him. All day and all night he stayed around the burial caves on the hills. He would scream and cut himself with rocks. The people knew to stay away.

While Jesus was still far away, the man saw him and ran to him bowing down. Jesus said, "Evil spirit, come out of this man!" But the man shouted, "What do you want with me, Jesus, son of God? I beg you, do not torment me!"

Jesus asked the man, "What is your name?" And the demon answered, "My name is Legion, because there are *many* of us." The evil spirits, the demons, living in the man begged Jesus again and again not to send them far away.

Jesus saw a large herd of pigs eating on a nearby hill. The evil spirits begged, "Send us to the pigs. Let us go into them." So Jesus allowed them do this. Once the evil spirits entered the herd of pigs, the pigs ran down the hill and into the lake where they all drowned. There were about 2000 pigs.



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By: Courtney Kirk

Illustrations by: Ashlyn & Morgan Kirk

God's word is full of scary stories that are perfect for pulling out the flashlight and telling in the dark. Don't forget to use your spooky voice!

Oh, and remember to let kids know these stories are not *just* stories; they really happened.

